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U.S., in Retaliation, Expels a Tass Man

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WASHINGTON, May 23—The United States expelled a Tass correspondent here today in retaliation for the Soviet Union's expulsion of Anatole Shub, Moscow correspondent for The Washington Post.

Carl Bartch, a State Department spokesman, said that Yulim Vorontsov, Soviet Embassy counselor, had been informed of the United States action by the State Department.

Mr. Bartch confirmed that the Soviet Embassy would be held responsible for seeing that the Tassman, Viktor Kopytin, had left the country within 48 hours, or by noon Sunday. On Wednesday Mr. Shub, who is 41 years old and whose father is Russian-born, was given 48 hours to leave the Soviet Union on the ground that his reporting had been hostile. His wife was permitted to stay on briefly.

Mr. Bartch said the United States deeply regretted "being forced to take this action" as a result of the Soviet Government's unwillingness "to tolerate the free exercise of journalism."

Benjamin Bradlee, managing editor of The Washington Post, said that it had not requested that the Administration retaliate and had avoided raising the matter formally or informally. Post reporters covering the State Department were requested not to bring up the subject at news briefings, he said.

Mr. Bartch has been emphasizing that "ideological" differences between Communist and non-Communist newsmen would naturally be reflected in their reporting but should not in themselves serve as a pretext for expulsion.

He has also drawn attention to alleged harassment of and pressure on United States newsmen in the Soviet Union, as contrasted with the virtual freedom enjoyed by Soviet correspondents here except for travel restrictions. These are retaliatory also.

Tass, the Soviet press agency, sent Mr. Kopytin to New York early in 1964 and transferred him to its Washington bureau that autumn. It has 15

correspondents in the United States, 10 of them — of whom two are United States citizens — based in New York and the rest are here.

The United States has never expelled a Soviet correspondent, Mr. Bartch said, but when American newsmen have been expelled by the Russians, the

United States has occasionally allowed a Soviet reporter to finish out his tour and then has refused him permission to return.

Expulsions of United States newsmen or hostile actions by the Soviet Government against United States news media were listed as follows:

In 1956 — Richard O'Malley, Associated Press; Welles Hanger, then of The New York Times; 1957 — Charles Klensch, International News Service; 1958 — Roy Essoyan, Associated Press; Columbia Broadcasting System bureau closed and correspondent, Paul Niven, expelled.